

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 16-27 stand withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner has required an election of species in the present application between:

Species A, Figs. 6-8; and

Species B, Figs. 9-10.

In order to be responsive to the requirement for an election of species stated by the Examiner, Applicants elect, with traverse, the species A. Claims 1-14 read on the elected species.

37 CFR 1.146 states that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. Only two species have been identified by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's election of species requirement is improper in view of the fact that claims to no more than a reasonable number of species are presented in the present application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for an election of species as stated in the May 3, 2004 Office Action and provide an examination on the merits of all of the claims being prosecuted in this application.

If the Examiner persists in his requirement for an election of species, Applicants explicitly reserve the right to add claims

directed to the non-elected species and to file divisional applications directed to these species at a later date if they so desire.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Frederick R. Handren (Reg. No. 32,874) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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